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May 23, 2012

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *Jr Fielding MD*  
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **QUARTERLY REPORT – WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

On November 29, 2011, on a motion by Supervisor Antonovich, the Department of Public Health (DPH) was instructed to provide quarterly reports on its monitoring activities, including findings and actions taken to address water quality issues. Attached is the second report covering the period of January 1 to March 30, 2012. The report summarizes water quality findings in small water systems throughout the County, and outlines the actions taken by the DPH Environmental Health Division in response to these findings.

If you should have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

JEF:jm  
PH:1111:009

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer  
Acting County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**Quarterly Report on Water Quality Monitoring for  
Small Water Systems in Los Angeles County**

**January 1 to March 31, 2012**

County of Los Angeles  
Department of Public Health  
Environmental Health Division  
May 2012

On July 13, 2010, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) instructed the Environmental Toxicology Laboratory of the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures to conduct an expanded study of the small well water facilities in the Los Angeles County to determine the presence of arsenic, total chromium, hexavalent chromium (chromium+6), and lead as a follow up study to the study published on February 14, 2001.

## BACKGROUND

On November 29, 2011, the Board instructed the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health to prepare quarterly reports on water quality monitoring in order for the Board to stay informed of current water quality issues. This report covers the period January 01 to March 31, 2012.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Drinking Water Program (DWP) serves as the local enforcement agency for California's Drinking Water Standards applicable to "small water systems" in Los Angeles County. A small water system is defined by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) as a system that has less than 200 service connections. The DWP currently inspects 180 small water systems within the County.

Operators of each small water system are required to complete bacteriological and chemical analyses of their potable water supplies. The water system operators are required to report monitoring results to the DWP at frequencies established by the CDPH. Failure to take water samples or to properly report sampling data constitutes a violation enforceable by the DWP.

When water quality test results indicate that (a) the system does not meet State Drinking Water Standards, or (b) an immediate health risk is present, the water system operator is required to: 1) notify consumers immediately, and 2) take corrective action to achieve compliance with State Drinking Water Standards. When the level of a chemical contaminant exceeds ten times the State Drinking Water Standard, the operator must discontinue water service and provide an alternative source of drinking water to consumers.

The DWP works with the CDPH to enforce State Law and to assist the water system in addressing violations for any chemical contaminant exceeding the State's Drinking Water Standards. Once a Notice of Violation is issued and consumers are notified of the exceedance, the water system is placed under increased surveillance while public notices continue to be posted. The DWP continues to educate and work with the water system regarding the installation of treatment systems and utilizing new water sources. Additionally, the DWP has continued to seek financial assistance from the State.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY

### A. Bacteriological Sampling Requirement

The DWP issues corrective orders to small water systems for failing to perform bacteriological analyses at the frequency required by State Law. During the reporting period, the DWP issued twenty-five (25) Notices of Violation and Order for lapses in bacteriological sampling.

Table 1: Small Water Systems in violation of the State requirement to perform bacteriological analyses.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1907024	AGUA DULCE FOURSQUARE CHURCH LIVING SPRINGS	AGUA DULCE
1900768	AGUA DULCE GENERAL STORE	AGUA DULCE
1900761	ANGELES SHOOTING RANGES	SAN FERNANDO
1900547	BSA-FIRESTONE SCOUT RESERVATION	BREA
1900529	CAMP WILLIAMS-RESORT	AZUSA
1900831	DECKER CANYON YOUTH CAMP	MALIBU
1907011	FLYING J TRAVEL CENTER	LEBEC
1900099	FORESTER HAVEN CALIFORNIA	SAN FERNANDO
1900730	GARDENS OF PARADISE	AGUA DULCE
1900767	GOLDEN VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT	GORMAN
1900639	HALLELUJAH PRAYER CENTER	LAKE VIEW TERRACE
1900142	JOSHUA ACRES MUTUAL	PALMDALE
1900977	KCAL TV AND FM STATION	MOUNT WILSON
1900226	KCBS	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900699	MILLARD CANYON IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION	ALTADENA
1900785	MITCHELL'S AVENUE E MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS
1900537	OAK GROVE TRAILER PARK	AGUA DULCE
1900868	RIVERS END TRAILER PARK	CANYON COUNTRY
1900229	SAWPIT DAM	MONROVIA
1910158	STERLING MUTUAL WATER COMPANY	EL MONTE
1900616	THE RIVER COMMUNITY	AZUSA
1900207	TRAIL CANYON EQUESTRIAN	TUJUNGA
1900599	VALHALLA WATER ASSOCIATION	TUJUNGA
1907013	WAGON WHEEL PLAZA-SWEETWATER	AGUA DULCE

The DWP has notified each water system to ensure that water samples are collected immediately. The DWP continues to educate and provide assistance when financially disadvantaged water systems are unable to test their water.

### B. Exceedances of the Bacteriological Standard

The DWP also issues corrective orders to small water systems for exceeding the Bacteriological Standard. During the reporting period, the DWP issued one (1) Notice of Violation and Order for bacteriological exceedances.

Table 2: Small Water Systems in violation of the State's Drinking Water Standards for bacteriological levels.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900304	DEL SUR GARDENS TRAILER PARK	LANCASTER

Del Sur Gardens tested positive for coliform bacteria, an indicator used to signal the potential presence of *E. coli*, a potential pathogen. Further laboratory analyses confirmed that *E. coli* was absent from their water test results. Both coliform bacteria and *E. coli* have been absent in subsequent testing of this small water system.

### CHEMICAL WATER QUALITY

#### A. Exceedances of the Arsenic Standard

Small water systems that have had chronic exceedances of the Arsenic Standard are required to continue notification of their customers. During the reporting period, the DWP maintained increased surveillance at thirteen (13) small water systems that have previously been notified regarding Arsenic levels historically exceeding the Standard (10 parts per billion).

Table 3: Small Water Systems under increased surveillance for chronic exceedance of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Arsenic.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON
1900228	BIG DALTON DAM	GLENDORA
1900305	CHALLENGER MEMORIAL YOUTH CAMP	LANCASTER
1900038	LANCASTER PARK MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900100	METTLER VALLEY MUTUAL	LANCASTER
1900785	MITCHELL'S AVENUE E MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS
1907007	NORTH HOLLYWOOD SPORTSMEN'S CLUB	SAUGUS
1907031	RANCHO YBARRA CHRISTIAN CAMP	TUJUNGA
1907018	SUMMERHILL EQUESTRIAN CENTER	SAUGUS
1900987	U.S. FOREST SERVICE OAK FLATS S-13	CASTAIC
1900520	VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900961	WINTERHAVEN MOBILE ESTATES	LANCASTER

Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center (Water System 1900756) has been closed by its operators (the Los Angeles County SAPC) and is no longer using their well as a potable water supply. As a result, they are no longer required to maintain public notification regarding Arsenic in their well water.

New Apostolic Church Bouquet Canyon (Water System 1907036) has proposed a system for the treatment of Arsenic in their potable water supply. The DWP is currently reviewing the proposal in conjunction with a California Licensed Water Filtration Contractor.

#### B. Exceedances of the Nitrate Standard

During the reporting period, the DWP maintained increased surveillance at two small water systems that have previously been notified regarding Nitrate levels historically exceeding the Standard (45 parts per million). These small water systems are also required to continue notification of their customers.

Table 4: Small Water Systems under increased surveillance for chronic exceedance of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Nitrate.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS

Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center (Water System 1900756) has been closed by its operators and is no longer using their well as a potable water supply. As a result, they are no longer required to maintain public notification regarding Nitrate in their well water.

New Apostolic Church Bouquet Canyon (Water System 1907036) has installed a system for the treatment of Nitrate in their potable water supply. The DWP will maintain increased surveillance of their water quality until the treatment system has demonstrated efficacy throughout the pilot monitoring period required of newly-installed treatment systems.

#### SUMMARY

Twenty-five small water systems were cited during the reporting period for failing to perform the necessary bacteriological analyses. One small water system was cited for exceeding the Bacteriological Standard during this period. Increased surveillance and public notification continued at thirteen small water systems with historical Arsenic exceedances and at two small water systems with historical Nitrate exceedances.

The laboratory analysis of water samples taken during the April to June quarter will be completed by late July 2012. The DWP will provide the report for that quarter on August 15, 2012.

For questions or for further information, please contact Richard Lavin, Chief of the Drinking Water Program, at (626) 430-5420.